



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN POINTS TO NEW DATA ON SMOKING DEATHS

According to Congressman Henry A. Waxman, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health, "we have underestimated the extent to which smoking contributes directly and indirectly to death -- especially from cancer."

Last week the Surgeon General of the United States labeled smoking as a "contributory factor" to cancer of the bladder, kidneys, and pancreas.

Waxman commented:

"This is new evidence against smoking. The Surgeon General was not repeating or rehashing old studies or warnings given in past years. The connection between smoking and cancer of the bladder, kidneys, and pancreas is based on large scale, recently conducted studies just made available to the Public Health Service."

Waxman noted that the three new cancers linked to smoking all have low cure rates and are regarded as likely to be fatal.

Waxman expressed special interest in the comments of the Surgeon General's report on "secondhand smoke."

"There has been much scientific disagreement on how dangerous secondhand smoke (smoke inhaled by non-smokers when in the company of people smoking). The new Surgeon General's report goes substantially further than previous reports in urging people to avoid exposure to smoke. The report raises at least the possibility that secondhand smoke may increase non-smokers' risks of incurring cancer. I hope this will provide the impetus for more "smoke-free" environments in both public and private places."

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